

District 44

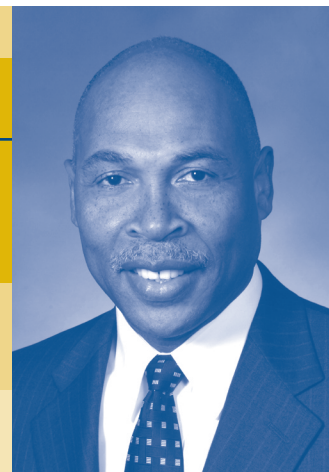
Transportation Update Highway 9



Representative Hans Dunshee

P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7804
E-mail:
dunshee.hans@leg.wa.gov

Committees:
Capital Budget
Chair
Appropriations



Representative John Lovick

P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7892
E-mail:
lovick.john@leg.wa.gov

Committees:
Juvenile Justice & Family Law
Transportation
Rules

Dear neighbors,

Just as I-5 is the north-south lifeblood of Washington state, much of eastern Snohomish County relies on Highway 9.

There's a massive construction effort underway to improve Highway 9, and many people are asking for details.

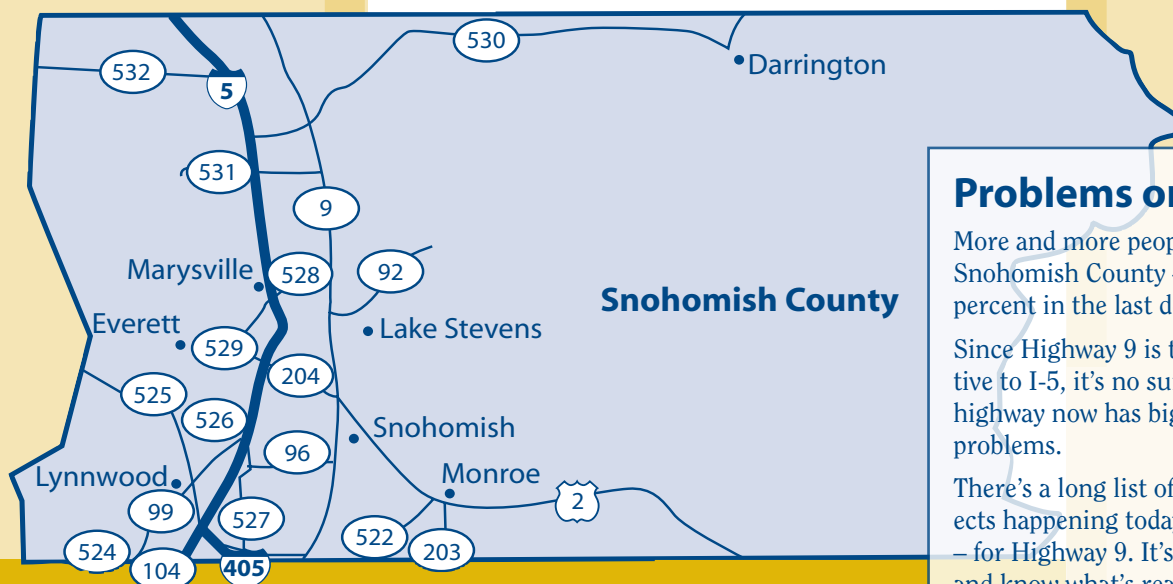
This newsletter cannot be long enough to contain all the answers, but we hope to give you a good picture of what's happening and why.

If you have any questions about local transportation projects or any other issue, please feel free to contact our offices. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your representatives.

Sincerely,

Hans Dunshee

John Lovick



Problems on Highway 9

More and more people are moving to Snohomish County – we've grown by 30 percent in the last decade.

Since Highway 9 is the only real alternative to I-5, it's no surprise that our little highway now has big traffic and safety problems.

There's a long list of construction projects happening today – or scheduled soon – for Highway 9. It's hard to take a glance and know what's really happening.

The quick answer is the projects are aimed at three things:

1. Improving safety
2. Fixing traffic gridlock
3. Protecting the environment

Protecting the environment

The projects on Highway 9 include larger culverts, which will reduce standing water on the highway and give fish like salmon easier passage to the places they need to commute.

Workers are also building stormwater ponds and methods to control erosion to stop dirty runoff from getting into our wetlands or drinking water.

Transportation Update Highway 9

From two lanes to four

The biggest change is widening Highway 9 to four lanes, along with adding turn lanes at key intersections and a raised median. Sidewalks and bus pullouts will also be added at intersections.

This will not only speed up traffic, it will boost safety, with fewer accidents and a much lower chance of head-on collisions due to the median.

Construction workers started widening Highway 9 in 1998, when they built a new bridge over Highway 522 and improved the interchange between 522 and Highway 9.

We're now in the second stage of construction, widening Highway 9 from the 522 interchange through 212th Street.

This stage of construction began in 2005 and will take an estimated two years.

Stage 3 will be widening from Highway 9 from 212th Street to 176th Street. The completion date for this stage is 2010.

The total cost for widening Highway 9 is an estimated \$107 million. It's funded by the Nickel Package passed by the Legislature in 2003.



Where's the money coming from?

It takes time to plan and schedule construction projects like this, so the projects happening now were funded by the Nickel Package, passed by the Legislature in 2003.

The construction work on Highway 9 today is not connected to the recent gas tax increase now on the November Ballot. We can provide you factual information about the new transportation package if you request it. Since the gas tax is on the ballot, we won't use our office to advocate on either side of that issue.

What's being built and when?

Below are the specific details on some major projects along Highway 9:

Widening to 212th Street

Highway 9 from Highway 522 to 212th Street. Adding a lane in each direction, new turn lanes and designated U-turn areas. Raised median for safety. Construction starts summer 2005, ends December 2007.

Funding: \$33.6 million

Widening from 212th to Highway 96

Adding a lane in each direction and new turn lanes along with traffic signals and sidewalks in key areas. Construction begins spring 2008 and finishes fall 2009.

Funding: \$5.9 million

When this is all done we will have a four lane road to just south of Snohomish. We will continue to work for more funding for SR-9.

What else is being built, fixed or changed?

Snohomish

US 2/Highway 9 interchange. This project is re-aligning off-ramps and on-ramps and adding traffic signals to improve safety. This project began June 2004 and should be finished November 2005.

Funding: \$2.25 million

Lake Stevens

Repaving from Highway 9/Highway 96 area to Frontier Village, with a new traffic signal at 56th Street. Completed in 2005.

Funding: \$3.5 million

Lake Stevens

Reconstruction of off-ramp to weigh station at Lake Stevens, with a new truck parking and inspection area and improved lighting for safety. Construction began in spring 2005 and will finish in fall of 2005.

Funding: \$2.25 million

Lake Stevens

SR-204 work and Cathcart Way extension is happening now; this project is locally funded.



Printed on recycled paper

Rep. Hans Dunshee
Rep. John Lovick
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Washington State
Department of Printing